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Special - CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Meeting Notes of September 11th, 2020

ITEM

1. Introductions

Meeting called to order at 11:31 p.m. by Brant Arthur.

Committee Members: Matt Metzler; Pete Gang; Steve Pierce; Amy Rider; Jane Elias; Kevin Conway; Merrilyn Joyce; Steve Birdlebough.

Guests:

Staff: Brant Arthur; Tanya Narath; Drew Nichols.

2. Public Comment

N/A

3. Administrative - Approval of prior meeting notes – July 10, 2020

Pete Gang moved for approval, Kevin Conway seconded. The July 10, 2020 meeting notes were approved.

4. Report-out from attendees

Pete Gang noted that three million acres are currently on fire. The Petaluma Climate Action Commission held a meeting to discuss the framework and hope to bring to the City Council for approval in December.

Steve Birdlebough commented on SCTA's Comprehensive Transportation Plan update that is currently being written with the understanding that transportation is the largest contributor for GHG emission while trying to decrease both VMT and GHG emissions.

Matt Metzler reported the City of Sonoma's half-time sustainability coordinator is looking to establish a nonprofit to fund bicycle/pedestrian projects since the city says they lack the staff and funding to develop or implement bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure.

Despite passing the Climate Emergency Resolution, the city is unable to allocate resources to implement actions in the resolution.

Jane Elias reported that Cloverdale has passed an item to work on resiliency with respect to working on the wastewater treatment plant and upgrading building efficiencies.

Kevin Conway announced the Friends of the Climate Plan and WECAN has developed a lengthy commentary and response to the mobilization strategy.

Merrilyn Joyce spoke on a presentation by Healdsburg's utility conservation analyst to the city council that outlined forward thinking of new programs that addresses conservation and rebates for lower income families.

Steve Pierce announced the selection process for the Sebastopol Climate Committee will begin next month and that the city is expecting a 20% decrease in revenue.

5. Report-out from the CAAC working group call on Climate Emergency Mobilization (CEMS) Structure

Brant Arthur recalled the working group call on August 19th. The group spoke on developing a loading order on the strategies, increasing public awareness, develop an effective and efficient process, and review of the CAAC structure going forward.

Mr. Arthur spoke briefly on the actions being taken by other communities throughout the US and Canada:

- Ann Arbor, MI: seeking a bold, long term goal of carbon neutral by 2030.
- Oakland, CA: Equitable Climate Action Plan for a just transition with 40 actions across seven strategies; the city seeks to be carbon neutral by 2045.
- Vancouver, BC, Canada: seeks an 80% reduction of 2007 numbers by 2050 through 53 accelerated actions.

Tanya Narath also presented on the Climate Emergency Mobilization Strategy (CEMS) update since the last meeting.

The guiding principles were displayed. There is an interest to highlight the high impact actions local governments and partners can take to move the needle on climate action and prioritize equitable outcomes.

Equity and community engagement has been added as a pillar in the Ten Year emergency policy package.

Ms. Narath spoke on the feedback received on the strategies.

In regards to the timeline, Ms. Narath noted that staff will be working on the Emergency Policy Package draft strategy with the working group and stakeholders through November. The final 2030

CEMS is aimed to be presented to the RCPA Board of Directors in December.

A funding and implementation plan will be developed and presented to the Board of Directors in early 2021.

For each strategy listed in the final CEMS, the objective, benefit, cost, assumptions, challenges, and implementation actions will be described.

Ms. Narath then described each specific strategy category, the working group membership, the approach, and the current status.

Steve Birdlebough asked about any knowledge of VMT banks and if there are experts available.

Ms. Narath responded some papers are available on the topic, but still remains an area to explore.

Pete Gang expressed excitement on and is encouraged by the work that is being developed.

Mr. Birdlebough expressed a similar, encouraging sentiment.

Lastly, Mr. Arthur spoke on ideas of the CAAC moving forward to build a broader coalition to build upon the work being done via CEMS, such as adding more members to the committee.

6. Process and timeline to finalize CEMS

Discussed concurrently with Item 5.

7. RCPA update on activities

Tanya Narath briefly highlighted the activities report that will be presented to the RCPA Board of Directors.

8. Announcements

Pete Gang announced the work being done by Ned Orrett to design a PAYS-type of program for low- and moderate-income households to convert from natural gas to all-electric.

9. Adjourn

The committee adjourned at 12:35 p.m.